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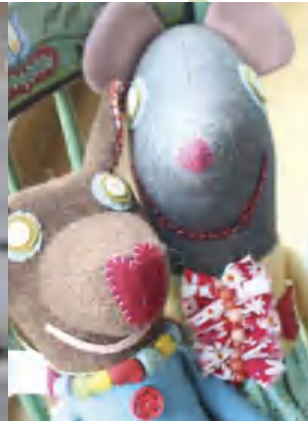
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ROMANTIC HOMES (ISSN 1086-4083) Volume 29, Number 3 is published monthly 12 times a year by Engaged Media, Inc., 22840 Savi Ranch Pkwy., Suite 200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887. Periodical postage paid at Anaheim, CA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** send address changes to Romantic Homes c/o VSI, Inc. 905 Kent Street, Liberty, MO 64068. © 2016 by Engaged Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. GST #R55050365RT001 Canada Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC. P.O. Box 25542 London, ON N6C 6B2.

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Springtime Is Forever

When I lived in New England and, later, in the Midwest, spring announced itself with scented breezes and spectacular bursts of blossoms everywhere. Here in California, spring's coming is a little subtler. A wash of green spreads across the hillsides, and in good, wet years fields of bright orange poppies appear, underscoring its reputation as "the golden state."

Springtime is never far from my mind. I like to pay tribute to spring all year long, with pretty patterned scarves and floral fragrances (gardenia, lilac, lavender) to remind me of those magical days that are always just around the corner. My home, too, is filled with reminders of spring, like the pretty pink teacup I sip my cocoa from on a chilly winter's eve, or fresh flowers displayed in favorite vases any time of year.

There are certain rituals and traditions associated with springtime—the dreaded "spring cleaning" comes to mind. It's a chore I

don't look forward to, but there is something refreshing about digging deep into the nooks and crannies of my home, sweeping away the cobwebs and dust bunnies, and inviting in the fresh, spring air.

Spring is the time of year when everything is new again, washed clean and bursting forth with color.

It's this very spirit of renewal that is at the heart of shabby décor. Vintage treasures, soft bursts of color and pattern, tattered and chippy furnishings, all lovingly restored and arranged to create a home that is both beautiful and comforting. Shabby style aspires to the heady dream of a glorious spring day—but it's a dream that lasts all year long.

Are you ready to invite spring into your home this year? Share your spring-inspired décor with us on Instagram and Facebook, or reach out to me on Twitter at @always_rh. Until next month, may your spirit be renewed by all the joys of spring!

Always,

Staci Dumsoski, Editor

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Editorial Director: Jackie Torres
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Staff Photographer: Henry Z. De Kuyper
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DESIGN

Art Director: Gabby Oh
Design Director: Eric Knagg

CONTRIBUTORS

Ayda Algin, Jo-Anne Coletti, Carolyn Eeles, Melinda Graham, Bret Gum, Jaimee Itagaki, Maartje Mastboom, Sarah Pankow, Marian Parsons, Colin Poole, Meryl Schoenbaum, Diane Sedo, Gay Van Beek, Simon van Rees

ADVERTISING

Terry Rollman - Publisher, trollman@engagedmediainc.com
Gabe Frimmel - Ad Sales Director - gfrimmel@engagedmediainc.com • (714) 200-1930
Donna Silva Norris - Senior Account Executive • (714) 200-1933
Becky Maas - Account Executive • (714) 200-1959
John Cabral - Advertising Design
Kristan Beckman - Advertising Traffic Coordinator
Gennifer Merriday - Advertising Traffic Coordinator

DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

John Bartulin - (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746
Neil Medalla - (866) 866-5146 ext. 2780

OPERATIONS

Subroto Mallick: Business Analytics Manager
Robert Short: IT Manager
Harsh Srivastava: Newsstand and Circulation Analyst
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Alex Mendoza: Administrative Assistant
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EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway #200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887
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www.facebook.com/romanticshomesmagazine
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ROMANTIC HOMES (ISSN 1086-4083) Volume 29, Number 3 is published monthly 12 times a year by Engaged Media, Inc., 22840 Savi Ranch Pkwy., Suite 200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887. Periodical postage paid at Anaheim, CA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** send address changes to Romantic Homes c/o Engaged Media, Inc. VSI, Inc., 905 Kent Street, Liberty, MO 64068. © 2016 by Engaged Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. GST #R55050365RT001 Canada Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC. P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 \$21.95/1 year, \$34.95/2 years. Foreign \$46.95/1 year, \$84.95/2 years payable in US funds. Single copy price is \$7.99. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for new subscriptions to begin.

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Yours Truly

INSPIRED AGAIN

I can't imagine not receiving this magazine in the mail. I instantly get a happy feeling knowing that I may see something I've never seen or be inspired yet again. Even if I am not completely inspired by an issue to make a change in my décor, I know someone else may have that "aha" moment. In an uncertain world, I know I can come home and my heart is at rest. I am nurtured by everything in my romantic home.

I own a ranch in Montana with my husband. We like to share that together we feed America. Our motto is, "It's all about the girls" and we are grateful for the opportunity.

[Our ranch] is over 100 years old. We have owned her for nearly 25 years. The property cares for about 125 head of cattle. My style is Victorian and French country.

PAULA ORCHOWSKI
FAIRFIELD, MONTANA

Your magazine is tops! Tops in the sense that it embraces all generations and tastes: your readers that love vintage with lace, European styles laden with gold, shiny silver, ideas from people of all walks of life and personalities, etc. [The pages] have beautiful, descriptive pictures and articles to enjoy and remember.

For me, you have fortified my love of keepsakes, especially the ones that are overlooked because they are plain and marked. Our foyer mirror is marked from age (86 years old), a hand-me-down that no one wanted. I thought if I could put a spray of flowers at the top of the mirror (as I have seen in your magazine) that would distract from seeing the imperfections on the glass. I was pleased with the results, but this led to another dilemma. Now my special desk lamp needed a pick-me-up to complement the "new mirror." While rummaging in my closet, I came upon belts that I haven't worn in years and decided to tie them around my plain leather lampshade, added two feathers, and so solved my second problem for only \$8.16. (The flowers were a Goodwill find, the feathers were found in the craft drawer and the belts were donated.)

[I am] so pleased that I was able to enhance my much-loved mirror and lamp (which were owned by special family members) and to display loved keepsakes. I thank you for allowing me to share what turning the pages of your *Romantic Homes* magazine did for our humble domain and hearts.

MARIE-ELENA ORIGON
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Pom-Pom Parade

Add a cheery bounce to your spring decorating with these pom-pom-adorned items.

By Staci Dumoski





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Mixing Things Up

It is my passion to make things more beautiful.

My style is cozy-romantic, which means I combine the charm of an old English cottage with the clarity of an old German farmhouse. It's in the mixing of these two that I find the balance between beauty and coziness.

I find all my beautiful things at flea markets. Vintage treasures are my biggest love. The beauty of handmade pieces. The patina, the colors, the imperfections. These are characteristics that I love and that I look for in every vintage object.

There's also my love of beautiful bedding, decorative pillows, throws and vintage rugs. Fabrics are the source of my inspiration. I always love to mix different patterns and prints together: floral with stripes, polka dots with toile de jouy, or checks with paisley. Mixing prints is so much fun.

I have two rules for mixing patterns:

1. Mix patterns from the same color family.
2. Look for patterns that complement each other.

I am sometimes asked for a precise definition of what I love about my home. All this!

ANDREAS BUCHER
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Quiet CORNER

Transform a neglected corner into a space for reading and relaxing.

By Devlin Smith

Photography by Jaimee Itagaki

Some homes have odd corners or niches whose purpose isn't immediately clear.

If you're faced with a similarly puzzling space, follow these homeowners' lead and transform it into a reading nook.

BUILD OUT

If you're not lucky enough to live in a home with built-in seats, you'll need to build a platform for this new seating area. Since you're building it yourself, install a flip-top for additional storage (creating a great place for extra blankets and pillows). Trim it with decorative accents like beadboard and paneling; then paint it to coordinate with the rest of your home.

WIRE IN

Lighting is a must for any reading area. Decide if you want to set a small lamp on a table or, like these homeowners, install overhead lighting (hanging or recessed). Flea markets and thrift stores are great places to score beautiful, one-of-a-kind vintage lighting. Add a 21st-century touch by setting up Bluetooth speakers so you can enjoy your favorite music along with your favorite book.

GET ORGANIZED

A reading nook needs books and a place to store them. For homes not graced with built-in shelves, you can build your own or purchase some. Think beyond the Ikea standard and opt for crates, baskets and stands you can find at flea markets and thrift stores.

DRESS UP

This step is the most fun—decorating your new reading nook. Make the platform comfy cozy with cushions, pillows or, depending on the size, a small mattress. Add a blanket or two for warmth and color. Finish it off, as these homeowners did, with artwork or add your own touches like vases filled with fresh flowers, or practical and beautiful tea sets.

SIT BACK

Now that you've created this space, enjoy it. Make a pot of tea, turn on your favorite playlist, grab a beloved book, and curl up and relax.





Tattered Elegance

Rip into this hot new trend and let your antique furniture bare it all.

By Staci Dumoski

Photography by Henry Z. De Kuyper



THERE'S SHABBY, AND THEN THERE'S REALLY SHABBY.

When floral designer Amanda Heer found a tattered antique armchair in a thrift store for \$10, she knew she was definitely moving into the realm of “really shabby.” The floral upholstery was faded and worn, already falling apart in some places.

But like most things made a hundred years ago or more, this chair was built to last. The wooden framework was still sound, and underneath the tattered upholstery that had surrendered to time and wear was an intact burlap lining and horsehair padding that still had a lot of life in it.

Instead of shipping the chair off to be reupholstered, an undertaking that could have cost hundreds of dollars, Amanda decided to take advantage of the worn glory of her thrift-store find. When the tattered outer layer was removed, the true, handcrafted beauty of the chair could be seen. From the nailhead trim to the elegant arm rolls to the intricate carving along the back, the chair revealed itself to be a work of art, and a perfect fit with her shabby home décor.

TIPS FOR DECONSTRUCTED UPHOLSTERY

With the right piece of furniture, you can uncover this ultra-shabby look for your own home with very little effort.

- **Make sure your chair is still stable enough for sitting**, unless you plan to use it only as a display piece.
- **Depending on the age of the chair**, you may find layers of muslin, cotton batting, burlap, horsehair and even straw mats. Modern chairs, by contrast, will have synthetic foam padding. You can tell the difference by pushing down firmly on the seat or back. You should be able to feel the “grassy” texture of the padding through the fabric.
- **Worn fabric should tear away easily**, but consider leaving a few threadbare shreds of fabric around the exposed nailheads to emphasize the aged patina.
- **As you work, keep an eye out for exposed tacks, pins or (with newer furniture) staples.** Carefully remove anything with sharp points and edges.
- **How far down you strip your chair is** entirely up to you. The more you remove, however, the less functional your chair will become.
- **Pillows and throw blankets can make** even the most tattered chair cozy. Pair with burlap, undyed linen and other natural fabrics for rustic glamour.

A Room of *Her Queen*

A pink and gold office strikes a glamorous pose that's chic, functional, and styled on a budget.

Written, photographed and styled by Jo-Anne Coletti



COULD YOU IMAGINE STYLE ICONS LIKE

Coco Chanel and Audrey Hepburn in a “plain Jane” workspace or a gentlemen-styled study with dark colors, brown chairs and rugged accessories? Women of that generation were very much in tune with their feminine side, and living with style was everything. Today’s working woman wants more than a dull, “one size fits all” cubicle. She deserves a chic and glam room surrounded by all that she loves.



“AN IDEAL WORKSPACE
IS A ROOM YOU WALK
INTO AND *immediately*
feel inspired and
at ease.”

Where we create is a very visual matter; it's home to our most passionate thoughts and ideas. When there's a stimulating foundation for creation, wonderful things come.

GOOD-BYE PLAIN JANE, HELLO GORGEOUS!

An ideal workspace is a room you walk into and immediately feel inspired and at ease. The soul of my in-home office is a feminine one, of course, but with an underlying tone of strength and a color scheme of inspiration. Gold, for instance, signifies passion, courage, magic and wisdom. Pink, a softer side of red, is romantic and playful, charming and warm. White, the purist of them all, represents wholeness, completion and a new beginning. This is a color combination I consider chic, classy and just plain fun.

With my color choices in place, I began my treasure hunting. My first purchase was a pink and gold clipboard I purchased at Home Goods. Thankfully, designers like Kate Spade make “putting on the glitz” easy with a variety of pretty and glam desk supplies. Designer Nate Berkus also has gold office items, like a fabulous pair of gold scissors (available at Target).

I am enamored of all-white palettes, and my office is no exception. Here, I went with my go-to shade of white (Chantilly Lace by Benjamin Moore) for the walls, trim and floor. It's a bright, clean white with very little yellow or gray undertones.

[TOP RIGHT] AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE CONVENTIONAL, this rustic cubby functions as storage, while offering character and charm to the space.



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With the bleached walls and full sunlight streaming in, I knew my accessories and all else in the room would be the spice to make the room pop. For the main focal point, I chose a wall decal with a favorite quote of mine: “She believed she could, so she did.” For me, this is the perfect note to encourage the female spirit and also to bring a playful vibe to the space.

The desktop was fashioned from an old door and mounted on a pair of trestles from Ikea. A French style chair was another Home Goods purchase, accompanied by a white-and-gold floral area rug that ties in beautifully with the gold accessories. To add contrast to the space, I incorporated a rustic free-standing cubby to house my office supplies, bills and papers. Lastly, add little bouquets— they don’t have to be fancy—a single bud here and there will do.

Even the most quotidian items can help fashion a very special and meaningful room. It doesn’t take a huge effort, just a little imagination and a whole lot of passion.

[TOP] BLEND BEAUTY AND NECESSITY: Keep everyday items in pretty containers, and only buy items to display on your desk that go with your color scheme, like these gold scissors, pink notebooks and paperweights.

[LEFT] SITTING PRETTY AND OH SO CHIC is this antique French harp-back chair adorned with a pretty-in-pink velvet seat.

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A CENTERPIECE IN THE FAMILY ROOM SHOWCASES Joan's pitcher collection. She enjoys using pitchers to hold flowers and likes to give them that way as gifts. Joan often finds inexpensive pitchers at discount stores and flea markets, although the floral-patterned pitcher by artist Sandy Kreyer is more expensive. Amateur art found at flea markets lines the wall.



Take It *Personally*

The success of a reimagined home rests on how much it reflects the homeowner's passions and personality.

By Meryl Schoenbaum
Photography by Bret Gum
Styling by Jackie Torres and Staci Dumoski





THE DÉCOR IN THE UPSTAIRS FAMILY ROOM illustrates how prints, patterns and art in the same space can be very different, but if they are in the same color value, they look good together. A king-size ottoman was added for comfort so people can put their feet up. A basket filled with yarn is a nod to Joan's mother-in-law, who was a quilter, and it reminds her of a family history that continues.





THE DOUBLE-WIDE CHAIR FOR TWO was found at a garage sale in lime green, and Joan had it reupholstered in her favorite cranberry color. "Alison seduced me with the drapery fabric; she knew I'd love the floral pattern and colors," Joan says.

YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT TO TURN A HOUSE INTO A COMFORTABLE HOME YOU NEED TO MAKE IT FIT YOUR STYLE AND LIFESTYLE,

but you are probably less certain of how to make all the elements come together in the most effective personal and functional ways. That's when an interior designer can be your friend—and in homeowner Joan Swartz's case, the designer actually was one.

Twenty-five years and counting. That's how long Joan's home has been a work in progress. She moved into the 1930s-built Santa Monica, California, home in the 1980s with her rapidly expanding family, which included her husband, Ken, and three children under the age of 2. But while she was attracted to the larger-scale home and the area, as an architect she had other plans in mind—so she tore it down to the studs and added 600 square feet.

"We chose Santa Monica for the neighborhood and good public schools, and this house had enough bedrooms that even with a live-in nanny and home office, I imagined we would never have to move again," Joan explains. Although the house was two stories with six bedrooms, there was no real master suite, and it was in poor condition. It had also been remodeled with cheap finishes, such as aluminum sliding windows.

"So we tore it down to the studs and reorganized the entire floor plan and front elevation to restore it to look and live like an original, traditional Cape Cod-style house," Joan says. "I was determined to use every inch of this house—and I did."

About 12 years later, Joan met interior designer Alison Kandler, who helped her remodel a second time, to redesign the kitchen/family room, entry and powder room on the first floor.



“You want the family
to feel like *they could
never live anywhere else.*”





"Another decade went by before we tackled the second story," Joan says. "My sons were all out of the house by then, so we remodeled the master suite and kids' bathroom, and cannibalized a couple of bedrooms to become my home office and an upstairs family room."

A third remodel of the home included the attic area. Although the three remodels were done many years apart, Joan wanted them to look seamless. "I wanted to make it feel cohesive, like it was all done at the same time, even though it was a work in progress for 25 years," she says.



[ABOVE LEFT] ALISON FOUND THESE ADORABLE SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS at a store in Santa Monica that was later destroyed in an earthquake. They were one of the first things Alison suggested that Joan buy. They are marked Bella Casa by Ganz. Susan Paley is the artist.

[ABOVE RIGHT] THE DOILY IS A NOD TO Joan's mother-in-law, whose needlework inspired her.

[OPPOSITE] THE DINING-ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS were originally painted white with a distressed treatment. Alison painted the table a dark brown to look like wood, and Joan wanted to paint the chairs different colors to brighten things up.

Get the Look

INTERIOR DESIGNER ALISON KANDLER SHARES HER TIPS FOR RECREATING THIS DÉCOR.

- **ADD IRON BRACKETS AND A GLASS SHELF** in front of a window for an extra display area.
- **LOOK FOR FAMILY HEIRLOOMS LIKE QUILTS AND AFGHANS** from your grandmothers. They add instant warmth and make great displays.
- **DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO BOLD WITH FLOOR TILE** if you love a particular color.
- **START COLLECTING SOMETHING FUN AND INEXPENSIVE**, like paint-by-number paintings. They are easy to collect and look great in a grouping.

BEADBOARD ON THE WALL ADDS a charming architectural detail that makes the kitchen feel like it is in an old home, Joan says. On the counter is an old shaved-ice machine from Hawaii. A vignette of Joan's Sandy Kreyer floral-pottery collection is also displayed. Small purple pendant lights were hung so as not to obscure the windows.





FOR INFORMAL DINING, A "C" SHAPED ISLAND

was painted an eggplant color. Wicker chairs don't block out the color of the island and provide a light, open feel to the space. The cabinet doors have a frosted-glass finish, for housing mismatched dishes. A window pass-through to the dining room was added for convenient serving.

Some of her favorite architectural details include sloped ceilings, dormers in the bedrooms, and niches that are very romantic and charming. "And a lot of windows—about 65 windows," Joan says. "Windows on at least two sides of a room help to let light into a room at different times of the day. I love living so near the ocean for the constant ocean breeze and beautiful sunsets."

Redecorating the Rooms

Through the years, Joan and Alison became business partners as well as close friends. Joan trusted Alison's intuition and skills as an interior designer to achieve her desired décor.

“Alison is the keeper of the concept and helps me to *balance all these beautiful colors without getting carried away.*”

THE COLORFUL CERAMIC MOLDS ON THE WALL were gifts from the Franklin Mint company. Wall niches display a house-shaped cookie jar, cookbooks and one of Joan's favorite pitchers. The chandelier is from Richard Mulligan's store in Los Angeles. Joan asked him to customize it with the farm animals and number of lights she wanted.

“You can't collaborate well unless you feel comfortable with someone else having a better idea,” Joan says. “There's an absence of competitive ego between us, so we work really well as a team. Alison is the keeper of the concept and helps me to balance all these beautiful colors without getting carried away.”

Alison's familiarity with Joan was a great asset in making decorating decisions. “Joan has a lot of personality; she's very outgoing. She loves life and wanted her home to feel happy, warm and colorful,” she says.

On Joan's request list was opening up the kitchen for entertaining, so Alison made some creative changes in design and functionality. “I opened it up by getting rid of the upper cabinets and rearranging the overall space,” Alison says. “We wanted to include an island with a stove on it, but the kitchen wasn't quite big enough, so we created a C-shaped island so Joan can stand on an angle to cook while seeing through to the family room and socializing with guests.”

Alison had to find another creative solution for a column next to the refrigerator that couldn't be moved, so she hid it behind laminated glass. She chose American cherry wood for the countertops, since Joan loves the warmth of wood. “The wood counter is a bit of maintenance, so we put a fresh coat of polyurethane on it every year,” Joan says. Since Alison knew Joan loves color, she painted the island in eggplant (plum) and the chairs in different colors.







“She loves life and wanted her home to *feel happy, warm and colorful.*”

[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] The master bedroom features soft, luxurious fabrics, like velvet, that Joan loves. Flea-market paintings are nostalgic for Joan. • Alison introduced fabric to this bathroom with colorful sink skirt. The cabinet was taken to the next level and made to appear vintage with a scalloped design. A fluted light fixture adds to the vintage look. • The purple gingham floor is comprised of tiles, although it looks seamless. The effect was achieved with mauve rather than the traditional white grout. It blends with the individual tiles, giving the floor a three-dimensional quality.



JOAN REPLACED THE OUTDATED ALUMINUM SLIDERS with these Craftsman-style wood casement windows.

[BELOW] A WINDOW IN THE WALK-IN closet provides light and an open feeling.

HOW TO DISPLAY COLLECTIONS IN YOUR HOME

TRY ALISON KANDLER'S TIPS ON SHOWCASING YOUR FAVORITE THINGS.

- Always keep similar items together.
- Shop at garage sales, flea markets, antiques stores, secondhand stores and online auction sites like eBay.
- Collecting should be fun; choose something that makes you smile.
- Occasionally I find an entire collection at one time, like 10 Bauer flowerpots or vintage handmade flowers. It makes for an instant collection



IN THE GUEST BEDROOM, QUILTS ADD color and softness to the white walls and floor. The small quilt draped over the purchased checkered one was Joan's mother-in-law's from the 1950s, and is called Flower Garden. Joan's son painted the framed pitcher in high school. A Sandy Kreyer lamp and a paint-by-number painting are also part of the décor.





Joan suggests mixing
inexpensive items with a
higher-priced one *for an
interesting grouping.*

Making a Splash in the Bath

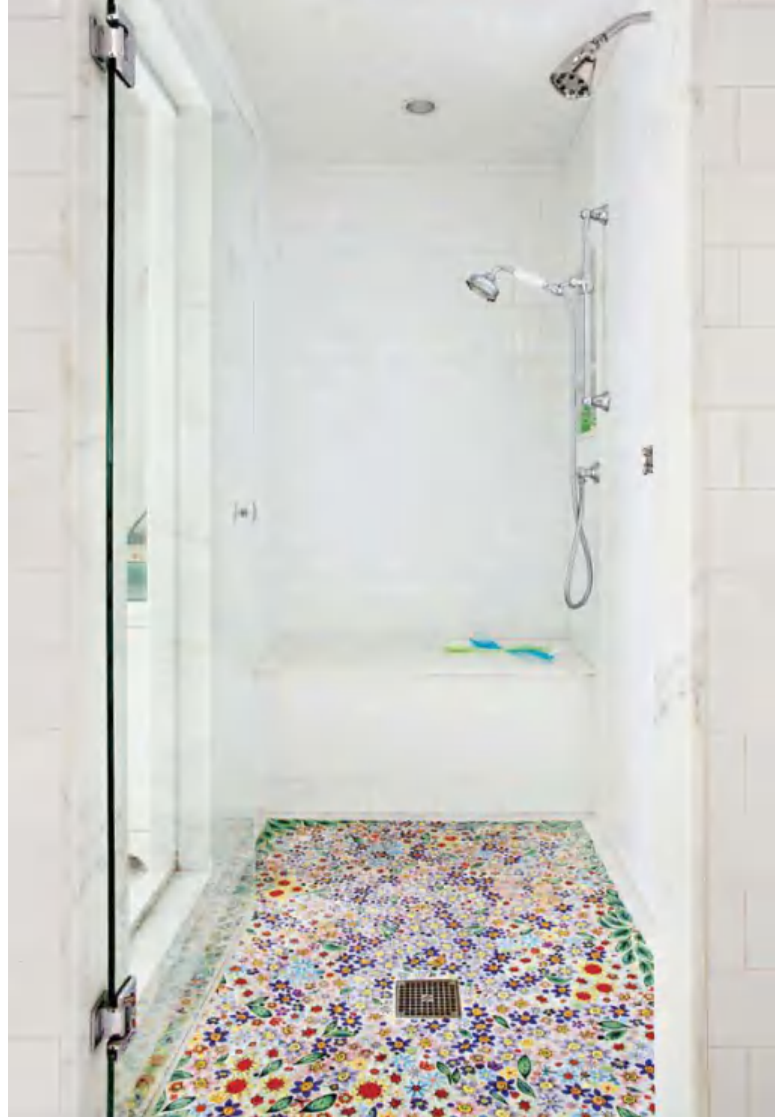
"My favorite aspect of the project is the tiled shower floor in the master bathroom. It's covered in a floral design," Alison says. "An artist in Phoenix creates unusual tiles, so I gave him a color palette of purple and pink flowers, and I told him the kind of flowers I wanted to use."

Joan adores the floral shower floor. "I really like to bring the outdoors in. I feel like I'm showering in a flower garden," she says.

Another favorite is a guest bathroom that boasts a charming gingham purple floor. "Alison said to me, 'When are we ever going to get to do a purple floor?' So I trusted her and went with purple instead of green. It's fabulous!" Joan says.

Adding a Personal Touch

An unexpected but enduring effect Alison has had on Joan was introducing her to the world of being a collector. "She didn't have collections at the time, so we started going to flea markets, and she caught the bug."



Joan has amassed several collections that she enjoys displaying. "I love to buy amateur art and paint-by-number paintings at flea markets. I'm a quilter, so I display them as well as my needlepoints, Sandy Kreyer floral ceramics, pitchers, miniature teapots and antique Barbola mirrors from the early 20th century."

The architect and designer are both thrilled with the outcome. "We live in each other's art," Alison says. "You want the family to feel like they could never live anywhere else."

Joan says she is finally living in her dream home. "I feel like Cinderella. Every morning I wake up thinking how lucky I am to live here," Joan says. "We have plenty of room to have friends stay with us and share our comfortable home. We are really blessed and grateful. It fits us like a glove!"

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

[OPPOSITE] JOAN SAYS SHE FEELS LIKE she is showering in a flower garden, thanks to this colorful floral shower floor designed by an artist who was given her color and design requests. "He went the extra mile by adding details like butterflies," she says.

[RIGHT] THIS BATHROOM SPACE IS ONLY 38 INCHES WIDE, but it is filled with personality and decorating ideas. The rug was a flea-market find that Joan says is "perfectly imperfect." The cabinet was made to look like a piece of furniture by adding feet, which give it an Old World feel and character.

For more information on architect/homeowner Joan Swartz, visit Joan Swartz Design at joanofarchitecture.com. To contact interior designer Alison Kandler, visit Alison Kandler Interior Design at alisonkandler.com.



Collecting *Colors*

This renovated 1918 villa is an inspiration for all who are not shy about color.

Written and styled by Maartje Mastboom
Photography by Simon van Rees/CocoFeatures.com





ORIGINALLY BUILT AS A RETIREMENT HOME FOR NUNS, this 1918 villa in southern Holland has been transformed into a real family home with a feminine touch. Each room has a unique style with its own combination of bright colors, floral prints and antique and flea-market finds.

It took the owners five years to renovate the house into the home of their dreams. During the renovation the family moved from level to level within the house. “We started in the

**“I take
inspiration ...
*from small,
ordinary things*
like beautiful fresh
flowers picked up in
the village or a cute
vintage teacup ...”**



attic, which was the most work," says homeowner Marieke. "There were two [large] containers of debris taken away. It took days to remove all the layers of wallpaper, and all the beams were eliminated."

All the original style elements, like the sliding doors, stained glass windows and decorative ornaments, were restored or replaced. "Everything here is done with care and attention, from the smallest details like the handles of the doors to the renovation of the ornaments on the ceiling," says Marieke.

"The wooden floor we refurbished; it is an oak floor and laid in Hungarian Point, [a herringbone variation]. When we bought it, it had a brown wax, which we have taken off, [and] after all the cracks and imperfections [were] sealed, we put on a layer of gray wax. As a finishing touch [we added] new high baseboards."

When the living and dining room were ready, Marieke couldn't wait to move in all her furniture and belongings from the garage where they'd been stored. The chandelier, bought in a shop in Saint Tropez, finally got its spot in the dining room.



[OPPOSITE] THE DINING ROOM HOSTS FAMILY MEALS and also serves also as a place where Marieke and her daughter like to work on creative projects. This cabinet (original to the home) was painted white to showcase a collection of dinnerware and flea-market finds.



[ABOVE LEFT] THE LAMP HAS A PURPLE VELVET SHADE CURRENTLY, but it's easy to change out to create a different mood. The antique table is painted gray to coordinate with the couches.

[ABOVE RIGHT] INSPIRED BY TRICIA GUILD, Marieke renovated this medallion chair with new fabric from Designers Guild.

*“Everything here
is done with care
and attention,
from the smallest
details like the
handles of the
doors to the
renovation of the
ornaments on
the ceiling.”*

A COMBINATION OF COMFY
COUCHES AND A CHAIR, in different
colors and fabrics, creates a cozy nest
for the family. The bright flowered rug
ties all the colors together.





[ABOVE] AN ANTIQUE MEDALLION CHAIR decorates this small hallway leading to the master bedroom.

[ABOVE RIGHT] THE HALLWAY WITH A RENOVATED STAIRWAY is a stunning entranceway to the home. The light purple paint, gorgeous illustrated botanical wallpaper and marble floor combine successfully to create a warm welcome for Marieke's guests.



THE DINING ROOM FEATURES the original sliding doors to the living room beyond and an elegant chandelier acquired in Saint Tropez. "When the sun is shining," Marieke says, "the sparkles from the crystal chandelier dance on the wall."

IN THE KITCHEN, MARIEKE USES EXPRESSIVE SIGNATURE PIECES that pop against the white cupboards and marble floor, including an impressive Italian-designed chandelier and an antique table with medallion chairs.





A CUSTOM-MADE
CASE for the radiator
has enough room on
top for toys.





[LEFT] **LITTLE PRINCESSES DREAM OF ROOMS LIKE THIS.** The combination of floral wallpaper and checked fabric in front of the window and on the mini couch works well.

[RIGHT] **"MY FAVORITE ITEM IS THE GREEN CABINET** in the room of my oldest daughter, Brit," says Marieke. "My father made it for me when I moved out of their house."

Fresh from the Flea Market

"My favorite room is the living room, because of the view; when I sit on the sofa I can look from the front of the house to the back of the garden."

"My second favorite place is the kitchen. When sitting at the table, I love to hear all the stories from the kids when they come home from school, and this is also the place for our lovely 13-year-old dog, Bas." The kitchen chandelier is a real eye-catcher. It is an Italian design; the pears and apples are made from massive glass and it's very heavy.

Marieke has worked as an interior stylist for 18 years. "It's still a great profession," she says. "Because of the changing trends, every season is different, and my own style also changes and grows. I take inspiration from magazines and from my travels but also from some small ordinary things like beautiful fresh flowers picked up in the village or a cute vintage teacup with a print of roses found in a flea market."

Some new objects get a touch of paint, and old furniture like chairs get colorful new fabric. "I like old stuff, but it has to be a fresh and bright look and not too dusty or shabby." When combined with white, these bright colors create a light and lively atmosphere throughout the home.

[SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.](#)





Get the Look:

FRENCH BED-AND-BREAKFAST

"My favorite item in the house is my bed: I love to sleep!"

In contrast to the bright, colorful living and dining rooms, the bedroom is a very serene space filled with natural colors. The style is French colonial, using a combination of antiques and more modern furnishings.

On the bed, crisp white bed linens and cushions with soft-hued roses complement the classic headboard with its gray wash wax. White drapes hung from an understated bed crown help create a romantic atmosphere like a real French B & B.

The closet was added to the room, with French-style shutters that hide the clothes.

A white table paired with a stool and mirror serves as a vanity, holding Marieke's jewelry and a collection of antique boxes. The secret is simplicity. Keep decorative touches at a minimum for a peaceful and relaxing environment.






[ABOVE] IN THE SUNROOM, Marieke built a long panel into a desk for her two little girls, each with their own boxes and shelves for pencils, toys and books.



[TOP RIGHT] IN SUMMERTIME, THE FRENCH DOORS are left open and the garden is a part of the home.

[ABOVE RIGHT] THE GARDEN IS A SUMMERTIME EXTENSION of the living room, with a long table and rattan chairs creating a comfy place to enjoy Sunday family lunch.



BIRDCAGES ARE PAINTED in complementary pastel shades, filled with faux flowers and suspended from long satin ribbons to take decorative advantage of a high ceiling.



Past TIMES

Nostalgic antiques fill Allie and Seth's family home with happy memories of the past.

By GAP Interiors/Carolyn Eeles

Photography by GAP Interiors/Colin Poole



ALLIE SOURCED A NUMBER OF PIECES OF FURNITURE from her local *Trade It* magazine, including the red velvet chaise and pair of sofas in the drawing room. Seth's vast LP collection is housed in the gentleman's wardrobe in one corner of the room. Part of Allie's large china collection is a superb array of Mason's Regency china, which is stored safely in a glass-fronted dresser inherited from Seth's grandmother. Apart from those in the kitchen, all the floors in the house are the original floorboards that have been stripped and stained. The curtains are a clever buy from Argos, and each one is in fact one curtain sewn on top of another with gold braid disguising the join. The chandelier is another Argos purchase.





ALLIE HILLAM WILL TELL YOU THAT SHE AND HER PARTNER OUTGREW THEIR FIRST HOME BECAUSE OF THE ADDITION OF THEIR CHILDREN, ZACHARY AND JEMIMA.

However, one look around their current home and a visitor would be forgiven for suspecting that perhaps space was at a premium due to their stunning collection of eclectic antiques.

It's a passion that Allie admits goes back to her teens. "I was a nanny in Bath for a while and was fortunate to work in and visit some fabulous Georgian houses, with equally impressive interiors," Allie recalls. "However, living on a restricted budget I quickly realized that I

needed to find cheaper alternatives if I was to begin to replicate what I had seen." Living in a flat on London Road in Bath was the ideal spot for scouting around junk shops and visiting local auctions. "I would pop out for a pint of milk and loaf of bread and find myself coming back with an old chair instead!" laughs Allie. "My friends thought I was mad drinking tea from a bone china cup and saucer and eating my supper off a vintage plate."







THE FAMILY ENJOYS A CANDLELIT DINNER IN THE SUMPTUOUS RED DINING ROOM, their favorite place to dine. The dining table and chairs are inherited pieces, while the antique books that line the far wall are almost entirely passed down from Allie's grandparents and Seth's aunt. "Turning the pages of the old books fills me with nostalgia, and the collection is very special to me," says Allie. Red-colored wine glasses from Woolworth's mix effortlessly with antique glass and china.

The fact that the couple now lives in the converted Victorian school is still a source of amazement to Allie. "I can remember being invited here for tea and scones by Seth's aunt, who owned it at the time," she remembers. "We sat on the lawn, and even before I stepped inside I had fallen in love with it. She had bought the school as a derelict site only a couple of years previously and overseen its restoration."

Seeing the photographs of the state of disrepair that the school had been allowed to fall into is quite shocking; it's hard to believe it is the same building. It had last been used as a school as recently as the mid 1980s, but for the following fifteen years it became the local youth hangout and the town's unofficial dumping ground, until a fire almost raised the building to the ground. "My aunt loves a challenge," says Seth. "But once the main renovations were finished, she was keen to move on to the next one. I knew how much Allie loved the house, and we jumped at the opportunity to take it on."

“I would pop out
for a pint of milk
and loaf of bread
and *find myself
coming back with
an old chair
instead!*”





A FAVORITE PASTIME OF ALLIE'S is to paint old furniture, and the pretty cupboard, now home to the extensive collection of pastel-colored china, was her first project. The wooden chairs were bought at a local trunk sale. Seth's father made the dresser, and the table is actually an old laboratory table saved from St Andrew's University. Unlike in the rest of the house, the flooring in the kitchen is not original, and the tiles are concrete, laid when the house was restored.

“It’s the history behind belongings that I find so fascinating, and I don’t mind too much whether that history is known or unknown to me.”

ONE OF ALLIE’S FAVORITE PURCHASES is the original 1950s gas cooker, bought for just £50 off eBay. “People smile when they see it and are even more amazed when they see how practical it is and how effectively it still works,” says Allie. The reconditioned Aga ensures that the spacious kitchen is kept warm even in the cold winter months. Simple slate tiles provide a backsplash behind the Aga. Allie collected her impressive range of vintage pans from local trunk sales.

The winning combination of innovative design ideas (the secret entrance disguised by a bookcase in the dining room is one example) and Allie’s love of the past is what makes this family home so distinctive. “I’m incredibly nostalgic about the past,” reveals Allie. “All our possessions are either passed down from grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles or are a result of my forays into flea markets and junk shops over the years. It’s the history behind belongings that I find so fascinating, and I don’t mind too much whether that history is known or unknown to me.”

Even though the main restoration work had taken place previously, the potential of the house was such that even after they’ve lived in it 10 years, their home is still evolving with new projects constantly going on. “Our next plan is to install French windows off the family living room,” says Allie. “Last winter Seth installed a wood burning stove in this room, which has made the room a family favorite during the winter months.”

And it’s not only the house that is constantly developing but Allie’s treasured possessions as well. Since starting to run the family business, a bed-and-breakfast, from home, she has become more ruthless in what she allocates house space to and confesses to regular “spring cleans” and a tough policy on what stays and what goes. “However, there is no way that I will ever stop collecting,” smiles Allie. “There’s always room for just one more!”





THE COUPLE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE both the pine dresser and grandfather clock custom made for them by Seth's father, while the mahogany carver chair was a gift from a friend.

THE PRETTY PATCHWORK QUILT

was made by Allie's mother when Zachary was born, and Allie painted the antique bed and mirror.

[OPPOSITE] THE PRETTY FLORAL

PAINTINGS are hand-me-downs from friends. "One person's junk is another's treasure," explains Allie. The painted desk was a chance find in a local charity shop and was originally an old dressing table.





TIP:

"Don't try too hard! Genuine 'shabby chic' is a sign to me that an item has a history and I wouldn't want to try and disguise that."



[ABOVE] ONCE ALLIE DECIDED THAT GREEN TOILE DE JOUY WALLPAPER was what she wanted in the guest bedroom, the search was on. Eventually she found three rolls of discontinued paper from Laura Ashley. "There almost wasn't enough," laughs Allie. "We had to cut and paste cleverly around the last corner." Dark-green velvet curtains ensure that the room has a cozy feel, and Allie painted the wrought-iron bed white to give it a fresher feel. Seth made the window shutters with the pretty heart detail.

[LEFT] THE FABULOUS FRENCH MAHOGANY BED in the master bedroom was a purchase on eBay, and Allie added a floral bed cover found in a local charity shop to create a less formal effect.

To learn more about Allie and Seth's B & B, visit thepaintedhome.co.uk.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.





TUCKED AWAY UNDER THE EAVES is the compact en suite bathroom. Allie chose pastel pink for the bathtub and painted an old mirrored wardrobe door to match, which is hung directly above.



Shabby Past and Future

Rachel Ashwell talks about the origins of Shabby Chic and shares tips for creating your own shabby style.

By Staci Dumoski
Photography by Sarah Pankow



THERE MAY BE NO NAME MORE SYNONYMOUS WITH SHABBY STYLE THAN RACHEL ASHWELL. Since launching her brand Rachel Ashwell's Shabby Chic in 1989, she's led the way in defining the romantic vintage decorating style with a love of chippy furniture, comfy white couches and vintage accessories.

We spoke with Rachel recently to find out about the origins of her style and where it's going in the future.

The Origins of Shabby Chic

Rachel moved from England to California when she was 19 years old. When she opened the first Shabby Chic store ten years later, these two cultural influences merged to create her unique style. "It's a combination of my British heritage—the attention to detail, art, tradition, the idea of future heirlooms—combined with California style, which is more relaxed and laid back."

“Authentic vintage pieces *need time and experiences that give them soul.*
A velvet, silk-lined curtain may have been intimidating once, but once it is a little tattered, it is inviting.”





"I was always attracted to the world of imperfections," Rachel says, referring to the way she incorporates vintage and antique items into her designs. "Perfect is intimidating. I am attracted to things that feel used." Timeworn elegance and faded grandeur are cornerstones of Rachel's personal style. "Authentic vintage pieces need time and experiences that give them soul. A velvet, silk-lined curtain may have been intimidating once, but once it is a little tattered, it is inviting."


That sense of "imperfection" complements another priority in Rachel's designs: practicality. Décor should be cushy and attractive, but also kid friendly. Slipcovered sofas and chairs, for example, are central to the shabby aesthetic because they are easy to maintain. Beauty, comfort and function have always been the bywords of the Shabby Chic brand.

Evolving Style

When Shabby Chic first opened, the style was very romantic, with lots of white and pastels. "It was very relevant to me and how I lived my life," says Rachel.

Today, Rachel's shabby style leans toward neutral tones, and incorporates more wood and linen. "Pink and blue are evolving into smoky colors, like raspberry and teal." Among the variety of furniture offered for sale, those with





simpler lines are increasingly popular, like the Soho and Simple sofas, which are her best sellers. Still comfy, Rachel assures, but with a cleaner look than might normally be associated with shabby style.

The new Rachel Ashwell Shabby Chic line of paints will reflect many of these evolving style trends. The paint will include a full range of colors, primarily for use on furniture, from white to green to taupe to grays, and pinks, blues,

“The *saddest thing* is creating a space in a house that is never used.”



{ DESIGNER SECRETS }

RACHEL ASHWELL SHARES HER TIPS
FOR HOME DECORATING.

- First, figure out how the room will be used and what it needs to fulfill that purpose. "The saddest thing is creating a space in a house that is never used," says Rachel.
- Create an inspiration book or board. Rachel's book for a project might include items like a picture of a pink blouse or some rose petals that speak to a palette or feeling—things that help tell the full story of what the house could be.
- Evaluate what you already have and what can be repurposed.
- Start visiting flea markets. Rachel keeps a master list of what she needs to buy for clients. It may take time to find just the right piece, but the end result is worth the time and effort.
- Don't overcomplicate things. Details are important, but you can get caught up in them and never get anything done.
- Less is more. Rachel was inspired by the recent best seller *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo. Get rid of things that you don't need," she encourages with the caveat, "but be cautious because you could regret it later. There is a real emotional empowerment in not hanging on to stuff, things that don't serve a purpose anymore."
- When it comes to choosing paint or fabrics, Rachel doesn't have particular favorites. "It's how it looks or how it feels. Try the paint on the walls to see how it works," she advises. She does recommend avoiding creams or icy white wall paint. "Stay with pure, bright white."



teals, etc. If this line is successful, a wall paint line may follow.

At The Prairie, the bed-and-breakfast that Rachel owns in Round Top, Texas, different buildings have been decorated with various shabby styles—one rustic, for example, and one more primitive—to exemplify the diversity of the Shabby Chic brand. Those who love classic Shabby Chic style don't need to fear, though—it's not going anywhere. "We're always trying to keep the customer who loves it for what it is," says Rachel, "while figuring out how to break through to new customers."

For more information about Rachel Ashwell, visit shabbychic.com.



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Surroundings

OLD ROLLING CARTS, DRESSMAKER FORMS AND CLASSROOM CABINETY are beautiful examples of industrial elements that will add character to any room.



FACTORY *Made*

Welcome industrial wares into your romantic shabby décor.

Written, photographed and styled by Melinda Graham

FOLLOWING DESIGN TRENDS GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN OF TRUE ROMANTICS. Romantics follow their hearts, not decorating rules. But one current trend—upcycling industrial wares—just might be a better fit for romantics than one might think. Embracing pieces of historical significance, repurposing vintage goods and mixing multiple design aesthetics are perfectly in line with shabby décor. Take a second look at factory castoffs and utilitarian goods with a keen eye ... then dress them with linens and pile them with ironstone.



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT

VINTAGE COBBLER STANDS AND SHOE FORMS are a nod to hand craftsmanship and bring a touch of history into the home.

A ROLLING STORAGE SHELF like this has a very small footprint in the room, yet it provides a great deal of storage. The dark metal is a lovely backdrop for showcasing antique china and crystal.



OLD TYPEWRITER STANDS were obsolete long before computers replaced typewriters. They were made to last and can still be found today under layers of dust in old warehouses and thrift shops.

OLD KITCHEN SCALES have a lovely industrial look and make a terrific modern-day accessory.

Surroundings



TIPS:

- Industrial design elements can be introduced into the most feminine of spaces. They offer a subtle masculinity and a hint of unexpected whimsy. Following this design trend can be a fun way to add an exciting new twist to your home. Although industrial wares have a clear and defined purpose, the fun part comes in finding creative and unexpected ways to use them.
- When developing your personal style, find the balance between form and function, while surrounding yourself with the things you find beautiful. Your style can always change, and it is natural to evolve when you are drawn to new things.

Using industrial items as design elements is not an entirely new trend. Think of it as developing a growing appreciation for utilitarian and manufacturing wares that once revolutionized the world. When the old workhorse factory furnishings were retired, they were quickly replaced with newer, less expensive and more productive models. Those unwanted yet faithful castoffs were recycled for their metal or simply left to rust. Over the years, creative souls stumbled upon these old relics, dusted them off and repurposed them into fabulous home furnishings, accessories and works of art. This is the artistic rebirth of the industrial revolution.

Incorporating these once hard-working elements into your existing décor might be simpler than you think. The furnishings tend to have straight lines and sturdy construction. The surfaces can be left in the original finish or painted to suit your color palette. Factory equipment, office furnishings and machinery can be upcycled into tables, shelving, room dividers and serving pieces. The sky is the limit. Smaller gadgets and handy implements can be transformed into collection displays, wall art or repurposed into anything from candle holders to photo easels.

When you begin the hunt for industrial wares, look for the intrinsic beauty of an item's utilitarian design, strong lines, rich history and aged patina. These classic factory remnants have an undeniable timeless appeal. Their rich hues come from years of hard-working service and blend effortlessly with neutral palettes. They offer a dark contrast to the light and ethereal elements of shabby décor, and their clean lines provide an unexpected quiet strength to a romantic space. Give these once cast-off relics a new life by bringing them into your home. From the factory floor to fabulous décor, give this trend a chance. You just might surprise yourself.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

For more on Melinda, visit surroundingsbymelinda.blogspot.com.



CATEGORIES OF COLLECTIBLES

The hunt for industrial goods can be fun and rewarding. Open your mind to endless design possibilities. You can visit garage sales, auctions, thrift shops, flea markets and search online. Here is a small list for inspiration.

- **FACTORY WARES** can include countless items, but these are some that transform easily into home furnishings. They are sturdy, functional and have classic, clean lines: rolling carts, work tables, gears, shipping crates, lights, adjustable stools, ladders and shelving.

- **OFFICE GOODS** tend to be slightly more refined than factory wares. They were often lighter weight and made with a design aesthetic in mind as opposed to the utilitarian function of factory items: filing cabinets, desks, typewriters and stands, chairs, phones, fans and display cabinets.

- **CRAFTSMEN COLLECTIONS** are a more refined subcategory of factory wares. Although they have a defined utilitarian function, the items are task specific, which makes them highly collectable as pieces of art: cobbler's tools, shoe forms, dressmaker forms, sewing machines, millinery blocks, drafting tables and industrial wooden spoons.

- **TOOLS** is a broad category that overlaps all the other categories. The wares are prized collectables because of their unique forms: tool boxes, metal caddies, wooden cases, ink pens, ink bottles, drill bit cases, pulleys, scales and metal letter punch sets.

- **STORAGE ITEMS** can range from task-specific craftsman cases to industrial factory organizational bins to fanciful and ornate lock boxes. They are treasured for their functionality as clever storage containers: post office boxes, bank boxes, spice tins, wooden trunks, cabinetmaker's boxes, metal bins, mailboxes and pigeon-hole cabinets.

- **SCHOOLHOUSE SUPPLIES** are fun to collect because they conjure up happy childhood memories. They are nostalgic, often small in scale and offer a light-hearted sense of whimsy: metal lockers, desks, chairs, step stools, wall maps, chalkboards, pencil sharpeners, yardsticks and chemistry sets.

Personalize

A CUPFUL *of* Spring

Get ready for springtime
with these cheery DIY
flower planters.

Written, photographed and
styled by Ayda Algin



M Y FAVORITE SEASON

has to be spring. The weather starts to warm up, but it's not too hot yet. The birds start chirping. All the flowers come out. I really love spring flowers, and it makes me happy to see them in all the different corners of my home.

To help get ready for spring, try making and then filling these repurposed teacup spring planters. These easy projects use items you probably already have around the house. Use them to perk up your tea table, or make a gift for a dear friend.



FLORAL DECOUPAGE CUPS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Plain white teacup
- Floral napkins
- Decoupage glue
- Brush
- Scissors

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Cut out the floral pattern from the napkin; make it about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the height of your teacup. Most paper napkins have three layers; you will only need the top layer.
2. Apply the decoupage glue all over the teacup and affix the napkin cutout to it. Smooth carefully to remove any air bubbles.
3. Apply a second coat of decoupage glue on top and let it dry.

Variation: For an even easier alternative, use sticky dots or floral stickers to embellish your teacups.



Personalize

PLANTING AND GROWING TIPS

- I choose to plant grape hyacinth, crocuses and irises in my teacup planters because they have small bulbs, bright colors, and they're easy to care for. Bulbs must be planted in the winter to provide early spring blooms. Small alpine plants such as thrift, winter aconite, primrose or saxifrage are also good alternatives. Be sure to check plant care information before you begin.
- If you don't want to drill a drainage hole in your teacup, put a small amount of gravel (about a tablespoon) in the bottom of the cup before adding dirt.
- Place the bulb or plant in the cup and fill around it with more soil, so the plant sits firmly in place.
- Position your teacup planters in a location where they will receive sufficient sunlight.
- Let the surface of the dirt become dry to the touch before watering. Take care not to overwater your bulbs or the roots may rot.
- Remove faded blossoms regularly.





For more on Ayda, visit
cafenohut.com.

Sensational SLIPCOVERS

Softly flowing or tailored to perfection—
dress your furniture with style.

By Gay Van Beek
Photography and styling by Marian Parsons

BEFORE HOME AIR CONDITIONING BECAME WIDELY AVAILABLE, plastic and vinyl

slipcovers were custom-made for upholstered furniture and used by homeowners during summer months to protect furniture from sweat. Slipcover tailors were often referred to as “summer millionaires” because of the high demand during the summer season.

Since then, slipcovers have evolved into an industry of their own. They are now made for all furniture types and styles, ranging from shabby décor to modern to colonial. Most major manufacturers, from discount to high-end, offer their upholstered pieces with several slipcover options in a wide range of fabrics.

Maneuvering through the maze of slipcover design options can be confusing. Many fabric stores have an in-house seamstress who works exclusively for them. After purchasing fabric for your slip, the seamstress will set up a consultation in your home, where various design and pricing options are discussed. The next step is measuring and pinning with muslin to form a pattern, and, in most cases, transporting your furniture to the studio to custom-fit your slip. Sound a bit intimidating? It need not be.

Marian Parsons, the owner of Mustard Seed Interiors LLC and the creative force behind the popular blog Miss Mustard Seed, is a self-taught slipcover seamstress. Through trial and error, she has gained expertise and has become very talented at turning forgotten pieces of furniture into artfully dressed objects by way of a fabulous piece of fabric and her well-honed skills.

AN ANTIQUE EMPIRE SOFA is transformed with a slipcover.



Details



TIPS:

- Prewash all fabrics, whether new or vintage.
- Have your seamstress pin and sew on site for the best fit.
- Choose sturdy and family-friendly fabrics for a lifetime of wear.



[TOP RIGHT] DRESSMAKER DETAILS turn a plain slip into a work of art.

[ABOVE LEFT] MARIAN PREFERS TO USE antique hemp for its durability.

[ABOVE RIGHT] USE SLIPCOVERS TO transform your dining room.

When deciding on the fabrics to use, Marian is a huge fan of antique hemp. "It's very forgiving, hard-wearing and the perfect weight for a slipcover," said Marian. She admits that antique hemp can be expensive and hard to find in large quantities, so her second choice is cotton twill. Cotton twill is very family-friendly and affordable. Best of all, when used for white slipcover designs, it can be bleached. Marian advises when you're shopping to look for fabrics that are sturdy and have a nice, tight weave. If a fabric is too thin or loosely woven, it will wear easily and fray at the seams, which tend to get stressed over time.

Prewashing is crucial to a successful slipcover. Even if your fabric says it has been prewashed, Marian strongly advises you take it home, rewash it and dry it yourself—even when using vintage fabrics, which are usually sold washed and pressed. "I throw them in the wash again, to soften them up. I wouldn't use a vintage or antique piece of fabric that can't be washed for a slipcover," she says.

There are endless styles to choose from when having a custom slipcover sewn. The more detailed the design, however, the more fabric you will need, which impacts your bottom line. "Ruffles and pleats take extra yardage, so you need to account for that. Buttons and ribbons are inexpensive and aren't all that complicated, but they do take extra time," says Marian. Although these details will cost more, they add charm and polish to each piece and are well worth the extra cost. Marian adds, "It's those details that make a slipcover really special."

Today's slipcovers are not just held together with Velcro: they are made with soft pleating, covered buttons, hidden zippers and coordinated welting. Marian believes that the best slipcovers are measured and fitted on site. "Think of a slipcover as a dress for your furniture. It's going to look best if it's tailor-made."

Slipcovers transform old furniture and extend its life for years. They are well made, sturdy yet soft, shabby yet sophisticated and, just like your favorite pair of jeans, they get better year after year.



For more information on Marian and to follow the Slipcover Series on her blog, Miss Mustard Seed, visit her at missmustardseed.com. To purchase her line of milk paint, visit missmustardseedsmilkpaint.com.



"THINK OF A SLIPCOVER AS
a dress for your furniture.
IT'S GOING TO LOOK BEST IF
IT'S TAILOR-MADE."





Strawberry ICE CREAM

Get a head start on spring with this tasty treat.

Recipe and photography from *Cake and Ice Cream: Recipes for Good Times* by Chronicle Books.
Photography by Victoria Pearson

Makes about 1 quart [960 ml]

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup [240 ml] heavy cream
- ½ cup [120 ml] half-and-half or whole milk
- 3 egg yolks
- ¾ cup [150 g] sugar
- 2½ cups [570 g] fresh strawberries, hulled
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

HOW TO DO IT

1. Prepare a large bowl or pan of ice water, to be used as an ice bath.
2. In the top of a double boiler or in a heatproof bowl, heat the cream and half-and-half over simmering water until steaming. Whisk the egg yolks in a bowl until blended; then whisk in ½ cup [100 g] of the sugar. Whisk in some of the hot cream, and then pour the yolk mixture back into the top of the double boiler. Stir and cook over the simmering water until the mixture forms a custard and coats the back of the spoon, about 10 minutes.
3. Immediately set the custard-filled pan in the ice bath and stir the custard occasionally until it cools to room temperature.
4. While the custard cools, mash the strawberries with a potato masher, sprinkle with the remaining ¼ cup [50 g] sugar and the lemon juice and let stand until the sugar dissolves. Stir the mixture into the custard, and transfer it to a container. Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled.
5. Freeze the chilled custard in an ice-cream maker according to the manufacturer's instructions. Transfer to a container, cover and freeze until firm, about 2 hours before serving.



Cake and Ice Cream: Recipes for Good Times,
photography by Victoria Pearson, published by
Chronicle Books, © 2015; chroniclebooks.com.

Shopping Guide

Say Ahh

pages 22–28

Antiques and cottage finds: visit vintagerosecollection.com.

Pink and gold notebook: Kate Spade, visit katespade.com.

Gold scissors: Target, visit target.com.

Take It Personally

pages 30–45

Home office: **Rug:** visit anthropologie.com.

Chaise fabric: visit pierreferre.com. **Curtain fabric:** visit pindler.com. **Ranunculus:** visit joann.com.

Kitchen: **Refrigerator:** GE Monogram, visit monogram.com. **Cooktop:** Viking, visit vikingrange.com. **Sink:** Kohler Dickenson, visit kohler.com. **Island paint color:** Benjamin Moore Summer Plum, visit benjaminmoore.com. **Island light:** visit rejuvenation.com. **Counter stool:** visit potterybarn.com.

Master bedroom: **Pillowcase:** visit duetlaguna.com. **Floral linens:** visit bellanottelinens.com. **Bedding and pillow at right:** visit zarahome.com.

Guest bedroom: **Cabinet knobs:** visit anthropologie.com.

Bathroom: **Faucet:** visit waterworks.com.

Media room: **Sofa fabric:** visit kravet.com.

Island fabric: visit osbornandlittle.com.

Collecting Colors

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Dining room: **Floral wallpaper:** Rosa Alba by Nina Campbell, visit ninacampbell.com.

Medallion chair fabric: Designers Guild, visit designersguild.com.

Living room: **Rug and yellow stool:** Sissy Boy, visit sissy-boy.nl. **Side tables:** Riverdale Fashionable Living, visit riverdale.nl. **Wallpaper:** Paradise by Nina Campbell, visit ninacampbell.com.

Hallway: **Wallpaper:** Alexandria by Designers Guild, visit designersguild.com.

Bedroom: **Cushions:** Cath Kidston, visit cathkidston.com.

Sunroom: **Wallpaper:** Nina Campbell, visit ninacampbell.com.

Past Times

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Paints: **Drawing Room:** Saxon Green estate emulsion. **Kitchen:** Estate Eggshell. **Kitchen cabinets:** Cooking Apple Green. **Dining room:** Rectory Red Estate Emulsion. **Family room paneling:** Green Blue Estate Eggshell. **Master bedroom bed and mirror:** Theresa's Green. Farrow & Ball, (888) 511-1121 or farrow-ball.com.

Drawing room: **Curtains, chandelier:** Argos, visit argos.co.uk. **Mantle mirror:** Vintage, for similar visit sellingantiques.co.uk.

Kitchen: **Green and white spotty oilcloth:**

Wipe Easy Tablecloths, visit

wipeeasytablecloths.com. **Botanical floral**

prints: Similar available at Collectors Prints, collectorsprints.com. **Cupboards:** Similar available at Country Antiques, visit countryantiques.net.

Cream enamel pitcher: Southwest Pine, southwestpine.co.uk. **Reconditioned Aga stove:** Twyford Cookers, visit

twyford-cookers.com. **Dotty cup and saucers:** Cath Kidston, (877) 259-8559 or cathkidston.com.

Vintage china cake stands: Cake Stand Heaven, visit cakestandheaven.com. **Enamel pans:** Lakeland, visit lakeland.co.uk.

Dining room: **Wine glasses:** John Lewis, visit johnlewis.com. **Sisal rug with border:** The Sisal Rug Company, visit sisalrugs.co.uk.

Guest bedroom: **Wallpaper:** Find similar from Zoffany, visit zoffany.com. **Evoke Mio radio:** Orla Kiely, visit johnlewis.com.

Bath: **Victorian tub:** Frome Reclamation Ltd., visit fromerec.co.uk. **Tub and mirror paint:** Tutu from Earthborn Paints, visit paint-direct.co.uk.

Master bedroom: **Bed linens:** Similar from Just Linen, visit justlinen.co.uk. **Fringed throw:** John Lewis, visit johnlewis.com.

Boy's room: **Wallpaper and curtain fabric:** Boat from Cath Kidston, (877) 259-8559 or cathkidston.com.

Shabby Past and Future

pages 74–80

All products featured: Rachel Ashwell's Shabby Chic, visit shabbychic.com.

Surroundings

pages 82–85

Vintage accessories, dishes and linens: Surroundings by Melinda, (239) 579-0409 or surroundingsbymelinda.com.

Telephone: Pottery Barn, visit potterybarn.com.

Fan: Holmes, visit holmesproducts.com.

Coming Next Month

PHOTOS BY RIKKI SNYDER, GEORGIANNA LANE



FRENCH KISS

Join us in April as we spend springtime in Paris and pay tribute to the magnificent City of Lights. Discover ways you can add romantic French flair to your own décor with tours of beautifully styled homes and helpful shopping guides. We'll also feature the Paris photography of Georgianna Lane, and give you ideas for throwing a literary-themed soiree that will wow your friends.

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WWW.EARTHANGELSSTUDIOS.COM

Cozy Kitchen

Turn your modern kitchen into a cottage look-alike with these tips and tricks.

By Staci Dumoski • Photography by Mark Tanner



1. Vintage Stove

Nothing adds charm to a kitchen like a vintage range. This one features twin ovens with porthole windows. Look for refurbished models from local dealers and on eBay.

2. Soften It Up

If all-white is too bright, add a subtle backdrop hue, like the pale green shown here on the walls, subway tile and floor.

3. Extra Storage

Replace your built-in pantry with a shabby vintage cabinet, or refinish a new cabinet to capture that vintage vibe.

4. Pretty Vignettes

Display floral tins and plates together, mixing heights and shapes to create visual interest. Repeat patterns and colors to tie the whole room together.

5. Unique Details

Pay attention to the small details that give your kitchen character, like the scalloped edge on the shelf, the patterned tabletop and the ladle rack displayed artfully on the wall.

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